

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10

L-02 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-05 BIB-01

FEA-01 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIEP-01

OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-03 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9117

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4962

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IC

SUBJ: ICELANDIC FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

1. SUMMARY. FROM WHAT SPARSE INFORMATION WE CAN GLEAN FROM SOVIET-ICELANDIC COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED IN PRAVDA APRIL 10 AND FROM A TALK THE SAME DAY WITH ICELANDIC EMBOFF, FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON'S APRIL 1-9 VISIT RARELY GOT BELOW THE CEREMONIAL LEVEL. ONLY ONE AGREEMENT, A CULTURAL ONE, WAS SIGNED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE HIGHEST LEVEL ICELANDIC VISIT YET TO THE USSR, AGUSTSSON CONFERRED WITH GROMYKO, FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV, AND FISHERIES MINISTER ISHKOV. HE WAS ALSO RECEIVED BY KOSYGIN, WHO IMPRESSED THE ICELANDERS WITH HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR COUNTRY.

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3. INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE SEEM FAIRLY

STANDARD, AND ICELANDIC EMBOFF WAS UNABLE TO ENLIGHTEN US ABOUT ANY GIVE-AND-TAKE. THE LANGUAGE ON PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AS THE BASIS FOR RELATIONS AMONG STATES FOLLOWS THE FEBRUARY UK-SOVIET COMMUNIQUE IN DEFINING PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE IN A WAY WHICH IMPLIES NEITHER IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE NOR SANCTION FOR THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE. THE LANGUAGE ON DETENTE IS ABOUT STANDARD FOR SOVIET-WESTERN COMMUNIQUE, AND THE WORDING ON CSCE PROTECTS THE WESTERN POSITION ON THE SUMMIT. SOVIET ARMS CONTROL DESIDERATA, INCLUDING A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE, GET LENGTHY ATTENTION IN THE COMMUNIQUE. THE MIDDLE EAST AND INDOCHINA ARE NOT TREATED.

4. ON BILATERAL QUESTIONS, THE ICELANDIC EMBOFF SAID THAT AGUSTSSON INFORMED THE SOVIETS OF THE ICELANDIC LOS DECISION TO MOVE FROM SUPPORT OF A 50-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE TO A 200-MILE ZONE. ON TRADE THERE WAS AGREEMENT TO ABANDON THE TRADITIONAL CLEARING ARRANGEMENT, WHICH THE EMBOFF SAID WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN ICELAND PAYING MORE HARD CURRENCY FOR ITS PURCHASES OF SOVIET OIL. IN RETURN, HE SAID, THE SOVIETS WILL PROBABLY BUY MORE ICELANDIC FISH, BUT HE DID NOT SEEM TOO SURE. A NEW FIVE-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT IS TO BE NEGOTIATED IN REYKJAVIK AND SIGNED IN JUNE OR JULY. THE SOVIETS PRESSED FOR AN AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN FISHERY RESEARCH, BUT AGUSTSSON SUCCEEDED IN GETTING VAGUE COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE SAYING ONLY THAT POSSIBILITIES WOULD BE EXPLORED FOR BROADENING SUCH COOPERATION. ONLY ONE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED-- A FIVE-YEAR CULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT REPLACING PREVIOUS TWO-YEAR AGREEMENTS.

5. OUR INFORMANT SAID THAT THE KEFLAVIK BASE WAS NOT RAISED BY THE SOVIETS AND THAT THE ICELANDIC SIDE HAD EMPHASIZED ICELAND'S ALLEGIANCE TO NATO. SUMMING UP, HE SAID THE VISIT WAS LARGELY THE IDEA OF THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN REYKJAVIK AND IMPLIED THAT NEITHER SIDE SEEMED TO HAVE MUCH ENTHUSIASM FOR IT.
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